

## BOOK REVIEW

MATT WHITE. 2006. **Prairie Time: A Blackland Portrait**. (ISBN 1-58544-501-0, hbk.). Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354, U.S.A. (**Orders:** 979-458-3982, 979-847-8752 fax; <http://www.tamu.edu/upress/>). \$19.95, 272 pp., b/w figures, 1 map, index, 5 1/2" × 8 1/2".

Texas-prairie enthusiasts will relish author Matt White's new memoir of the Blackland Prairie called *Prairie Time: A Blackland Portrait*. His new book intertwines the author's interests in the Blackland Prairie with personal touches of family, nature, and land histories, with prairie ecology—all with the background of his sentimental memories of the Blackland Prairie region.

The book is a collection of Matt White's experiences in exploring prairie remnants; among these are his interactions with land stewards and also stories of unfortunate losses of prairie remnants to various causes. Throughout the book there is information on animals that have inhabited the prairie, such as the prairie chicken and wild turkeys, as well as information on the importance of prairie as wildlife habitat. Prairie ecology is dotted through the text as well. For example, you'll find information on the importance of fire to the prairie system, the formation and characteristics of prairie soils, flora indicative of prairie areas, and flora invasive to the prairie. A discussion of historical land uses and views of the prairie over time is also included. The author's deep interest and enjoyment of the prairie is delicately sprinkled throughout the text.

Take a sentimental journey with author Matt White and experience his excitement in exploring Blackland Prairie remnants in Texas. White shares both joyous experiences of preserving remnants and heartbreaking defeats in loss of Blackland Prairie areas. Readers with an interest in learning more about the Blackland Prairie should seek out this very readable book—it includes many details on the natural history and ecology of the Blackland Prairie within the author's stories.—*Lee Luckeydoo, Herbarium, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.*